

## Content Areas

The QCSD curriculum has been developed with standards and benchmarks as the focus.

| CORE CONTENT        | Math                | Reading, English, Language Arts   | Science                    | Social Studies              |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| RELATED STUDIES     | Art                 | Business & Information Technology | Family & Consumer Sciences | Health & Physical Education |
|                     | Music               | Library Science                   | Technical Studies          | World Languages             |
| SPECIAL INITIATIVES | Virtual High School | Springboard                       |                            |                             |

### Standards

Standards clearly state and define what will be taught and what students should learn in each subject at each grade level;

- provide for consistency from classroom to classroom;
- ensure logical progression in learning from grade to grade; and
- make assessments clearer and meaningful, since the assessments are based on the standards. *(from PA Academic Standards Family Connections Kit)*

### Benchmarks

The QCSD standards are benchmarked at grades 4, 8 and 10. Benchmarks define the skills and knowledge that students should have acquired at these grade levels. For example:

**Mathematics Standard:** Measurement

**Grade 4 Benchmark:** Carry out simple conversions, such as between "cm" and "m", and between hours and minutes

| Sample Curriculum Framework  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Standards</b><br>Standards, accompanied with specific benchmarks, define what students must know and will be able to do.  | <b>Enduring Understandings</b><br>Enduring understandings represent the big ideas of a particular subject that enable students to make connections and gain specific insight about the subject after studying it for several years. The curriculum has been developed so students can realize these enduring understandings at the conclusion of their schooling. | <b>Essential Questions</b><br>The essential questions address philosophical and conceptual foundations of a subject. They provoke and sustain student inquiry, while also focusing the teaching, the learning, and the student's performance. |
| <b>Philosophy</b><br>The philosophy reflects the key goals within a subject area, as well as the broader, district-wide mission. It includes current information on research-based principles that focus on the delivery of a standards-based curriculum, as well as the kind of instruction that should occur in classrooms for students to achieve high standards. | <b>Best Practices</b><br>Best Practices refers to those methods and practices that are supported by research and have been proven to be effective in helping students learn. Each subject area has its own set of best practices. In addition, there are best practices for curriculum, instruction and assessment that apply to all areas of instruction.        |   |

**For further curriculum information, please contact:**

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